

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

A pair of stoppers 87 for restricting a frontward projection amount of the male connector housing 60 are formed by being integrally projected from centers on front edge sides of inner faces of the upper and the lower walls ~~81a-82a~~ and ~~81b-82b~~.

Page 2, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

Further, a clearance is provided over an entire periphery between the cylindrical member 82 of the holder 81, and a hood 61 of the male connector housing 60, such that the male connector housing 60 is slidably supported at the inside of the cylindrical member 82. That is, when the fitting of the male connector housing 60 and the female connector housing 70 is completed, these connector housings 60 and 70 are slid toward the door panel (the bracket 83) at the inside of the holder 81.

Page 3, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

When the projections 86 of the respective flexible arms 85 are engaged with the holes 67 of the respective flexible ~~locking~~retaining pieces 68, the male connector housing 60 is projected from the holder 81 by a predetermined length as a standby state for fitting with the female connector housing 70. That is, by engaging the projections 86 with the holes 67, the retract movement of the male connector housing 60 relative to the holder 81 is restricted, so that the standby position becomes a position for the fitting or detaching operation of the male and female connector housings 60 and 70.

The last paragraph beginning on pg. 3 and ending on pg. 4 is amended as follows:

In such a configuration, the standby state of the ~~female-male~~ connector housing 60 is maintained by the engagement between the projections 86 of the flexible arms 85 in the holder 81 and the holes 67 of the retaining pieces 68 in the male connector, as an initial state of the fitting operation. During the fitting operation of the connector housings 60 and 70, the projections 73 of the ~~male-female~~ connector housing 70 urge the retaining pieces 68 of the ~~female-male~~ terminal 60 so as to elastically deform outward, thereby securing the engagement between the projections 86 and the holes 67.

Page 4, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

When the ~~male-female~~ connector housing 70 is completely fitted with the ~~female-male~~ connector housing 60, the projections 73 enter into the holes 67 to release the engagement between the projections 86 and holes 67. After then, the integrated connector housings 60 and 70 slide downward at the inside of the holder 81 to complete an attaching operation of a switch unit onto the door panel.

Page 4, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

However, in the above configuration, when the connector housings 60 and 70 are disengaged by disengaging the projections 73 of the ~~male-female~~ connector housing 70 from the holes 67 of the ~~female-male~~ connector housing 60, the ~~female-male~~ connector housing 60 is not always duly returned to the standby position thereof. That is, in a case where the connector housings 60 and 70 are subjected to a refitting operation, ~~it is not assured~~ the standby state of the

~~female-male~~ connector housing 60 is not assured. Accordingly, an operator has to place the ~~female-male~~ connector housing 60 at the standby position, so that workability becomes worse.

The last paragraph beginning on pg. 7 and ending on pg. 8 is amended as follows:

A connector 10 according to the invention is constituted by a female connector housing 20 having a flexible lock arm 21, a fitting detection member 30 having a flexible locking arm 31, and a male connector housing 40 having a lock beak 41 is fitted. The male connector housing 40 is fitted between the female connector housing 20 and the fitting detection member 30.

Page 8, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 4, the female connector housing 20 is provided with a cylindrical main body 22 formed with chambers 24 for ~~containing to hold~~holding a pair of female terminals 23. The main body 22 is mounted with a front holder 26 from a front side via an O ring 25. Two pairs of guide projections 27 are projected from side portions of the main body 22.

Page 8, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

The flexible lock arm 21 is arranged at an upper face of the main body 22 and extended to forward and rearward directions from an upper end of a stay portion 28 along a fitting direction of the main body 22. The stay portion 28 is erected substantially at a center of the upper face of the main body 22 so that the flexible lock arm 21 is capable of being displaced in a seesaw manner with the stay portion 28 as a fulcrum.

Page 8, the third full paragraph is amended as follows:

A locking hole 21a is formed on a front end side in the fitting direction of the flexible lock arm 21. When the female connector housing 20 is disposed at an initial fitting position (*i.e.*, the claimed second position), the flexible locking arm 31 provided at the fitting detection member 30 is fitted into the locking hole 21a from above. Further, when the female connector housing 20 is disposed at a complete fitting position (*i.e.*, the claimed first position), the lock beak 41 of the male connector housing 40 is fitted into the locking hole 21a from below.

Page 10, the fifth full paragraph is amended as follows:

The ribs 36 restrict the flexed amount of the flexible lock arms 21 to be small when the female connector housing 20 is disposed at the complete fitting position. To the contrary, the ribs 36 is-are received by the recessed portions 21d of the flexible lock arm 21 when the female connector housing 20 is disposed at the initial position, to considerably enlarge the flexed amount of the flexible lock arm 21.

Page 11, the third full paragraph is amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 5, in a state where the female connector housing 20 is disposed at the complete fitting position, when the operation member 21c of the flexible lock arms 21 is pressed downward, the flexible lock arm 21 is flexed and the projections 21b are disengaged from the ~~front end portion of the flexible lock arm 21~~ engaging portions 33. At this occasion, the flexible locking arm 31 is detached from the outer end portion of the flexible lock arm 21 so that the engagement between the female connector housing 20 and the fitting detection member 30 is released.

The last paragraph beginning on pg. 11 and ending on pg. 12 is amended as follows:

However, since the recessed portions ~~21b-21d~~ are not faced facing the ribs 36 of the fitting detection member 30, upper faces of the flexible lock arm 21 impinge at the ribs 36, the flexed amount of the flexible lock arm 21 is restricted to be small so that the lock beak 41 of the male connector housing 40 cannot be disengaged from the locking holes 21a.

Page 12, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 7, when the female connector housing 20 is set to the initial position while the lock beak 41-~~of~~ is not disengaged from the locking hole 21a, the operation member 21c of the flexible lock arm 21 is pressed again. At this occasion, since the recessed portions 21d of the flexible lock arms 21 are faced facing the ribs 36 of the fitting detection member 30, the ribs 36 are contained in the recessed portions 21d.

Page 13, the second full paragraph is amended as follows:

According to the embodiment, in a case where the female connector housing 20 is disposed at the complete fitting position and the flexible lock arms 21 are flexed, the projections 21b of the female connector housing 20 ~~is-are~~ disengaged from the engaging portions 33 of the fitting ~~recessed-detection~~ member 30. Thereby, the female connector housing 20 is permitted to move to the initial fitting position, however, since the flexed amount the flexible lock arms 21 is restricted to be small by the ribs 36 of the fitting detection member 30, the male connector housing ~~20-40~~ cannot be released from being locked.

Page 13, the third full paragraph is amended as follows:

At this occasion, by flexing again the flexible lock arms 21 relative to the female connector housing 20 disposed at the initial fitting position, the flexed amount of the flexible lock arms 21 is enlarged by the recessed portions 21d receiving the ribs 36. Thereby, the lock beak 41 of the male connector housing 40 is released from the flexible lock arm 21 to thereby cancel the fitting.

Page 14, the first full paragraph is amended as follows:

Further, since the operator ~~needs not~~does not need to manually move the female connector housing 20 to the initial fitting position, the workability in the refitting operation can be promoted.